"(B) participating families shall be treated in the same manner as participants in the food stamp program are treated.

"(2) Nothing in this section shall—

"(A) allow payments made to the State under the Project to be less than the amounts the State and eligible households within the State would have received if the Project had not been implemented; or

"(B) require the Secretary to incur costs as a result of the Project in excess of costs that would have been incurred if the Project had not been implemented, except for costs for evaluation.

"(h) QUALITY CONTROL.—Participating families shall be excluded from any sample taken for purposes of making any determination under section 16(c). For purposes of establishing the total value of allotments under section 16(c)(1)(C), food coupons and the amount of federal liability for food assistance provided under the Project as limited by subsection b(12) of this section shall be treated as allotments issued under the food stamp program. Payments for administrative costs incurred by the State shall be included for purposes of establishing the adjustment under section 16(c)(1)(A).

"(i) EVALUATION.—(1) The State shall develop and implement a plan for an independent evaluation designed to provide reliable information on Project impacts and implementation. The evaluation will include treatment and control groups and will include random assignment of families to treatment and control groups in an urban setting. The evaluation plan shall satisfy the evaluation concerns of the Secretary of Agriculture such as effects on benefits to participants, costs of the Project, payment accuracy, administrative consequences, any reduction in welfare dependency, any reduction in total assistance payments, and the consequences of cash payments on household expenditures, and food consumption. The evaluation plan shall take into consideration the evaluation requirements and administrative obligations of the State. The evaluation will measure the effects of the Project in regard to goals of increasing family income, prevention of long-term dependency,

movement toward self-sufficiency, support, and simplification of the welfare system

tem.

"(2) The State shall pay 50 percent of the cost of developing and implementing such plan and the Federal Government shall pay the remainder.

"(j) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

"(1) The term 'family' means the following individuals who live together: a minor child or a group of minor children related to each other as siblings, half siblings, stepsiblings, or adopted siblings, together with their natural or adoptive parents, or their caregiver. Family also includes a pregnant woman in the third trimester of pregnancy with no children.

"(2) The term 'contract' means a plan to help a family pursue self-sufficiency, based on the State's assessment of the family's needs and abilities and developed with a parental caregiver.

"(3) The term 'caregiver' means a minor child's natural or adoptive parent or parents who live in the home with the minor child. For purposes of determining eligibility for the Project, 'caregiver' also means any of the following individuals who live with and provide care and support to a minor child when the minor child's natural or adoptive parent or parents do not reside in the same home: grandfather, grandmother, brother,